GET CREATIVE WITH THE PANINI PRESS
NAPOLEANS WITH LESS MESS {page 17}

‘WOW’ HEMSWORTH THUNDERS IN THOR {page 13}

VANCOUVER metro®
Wednesday, May 4, 2011
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News worth sharing.

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Overtime. Win

▶ The Vancouver Canucks’ bench clears in celebration of an overtime goal by Ryan Kesler against the Nashville Predators in Game 3 yesterday. Story, page 20.

FREDERICK BREEDON/GETTY IMAGES

Kesler powers Canucks to series lead

Online voting gets a try

Testing to take place during advance polls in 2011 civic election NPA councillor opposes project, cites security concerns

Vancouver city councillors hope testing the digital waters in the upcoming civic election will spur voter participation.

Council voted 10-1 yesterday to launch a pilot project that would allow Vancouver residents to conveniently vote from the comfort of their home during advance polling ahead of November’s municipal election.

“I think there’s a real strong case that this will enhance democracy in Vancouver and hopefully increase the voter turnout,” said Mayor Gregor Robertson.

Online voting was used in 40 municipal elections in Ontario in 2010 with few problems, according to a staff report.

Other jurisdictions across Canada have also tested online voting and found an average voter turnout increase of two to four per cent.

NPA Coun. Suzanne Anton was the lone dissenting voice and hoped that the plan would go to public consultation instead.

“This has nothing to do with change, people will welcome the change,” she said. “The issue are the perils in the system. To me, a system like this needs to be tested more out in the world.”

A request for proposals will now be issued to third-party operators. MATT KIELTYKA

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Honolulu Air + 7 Nights from $475◊ + taxes & fees $108
INCLUDES accom near beach and shopping. Price per person based on family of 4. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $7 per night. **ADD** Luau from $90.

Orlando Air + 7 Nights from $538◊ + taxes & fees $123
INCLUDES accom near theme parks. Price per person based on family of 4.

Europe

London Air + First 2 Nights from $469 + taxes & fees $511
INCLUDES central accom near public transport. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $18 per night. **ADD** 2-day sightseeing pass from $93.

Germany
Air + First 2 Nights 4-Star from $679 + taxes & fees $490
INCLUDES air into Frankfurt, return from Munich and central Frankfurt accom with breakfast. **ADD** 3-day German rail pass from $236.

Paris Air + 7 Nights from $1249 + taxes & fees $460
INCLUDES boutique accom near Montmartre close to major sites and attractions

Barcelona
Air + 7 Nights 4-Star from $1328 + taxes & fees $405
INCLUDES accom close to Poble Nou and the Sagrada Familia monument.

Arizona

Mesa Air + 3 Nights
from **$489**
+ taxes & fees $124
INCLUDES central accom. **UPGRADE** to 4-star Marriott Mesa from $15 per night. **ADD** one round of golf at Longbow Golf Course from $45 per person.

Scottsdale
Air + 3 Nights 4-Star from $519 + taxes & fees $124
INCLUDES accom near Pinnacle Peak and McDowell Mountains. **ADD** Grand Canyon Helicopter tour from $336.

Tucson Air + 3 Nights from $529 + taxes & fees $127
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Air + 7 Nights from $649 + taxes & fees $297
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USA

Las Vegas
Air + 3 Nights
from **$199**
+ taxes & fees $39
INCLUDES air from Bellingham with accom on the Strip. **ADD** Vegas Passport Ultimate Club Hopping pass from $124.

San Francisco Air + 4 Nights from $459 + taxes & fees $110
INCLUDES Market Street accom near Union Square. **ADD** Wine Country tour from $66.

New Orleans Air + 4 Nights from $759 + taxes & fees $136
INCLUDES accom in French Quarter. **ADD** Swamp and Bayou tour from $48. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $14 per night.

New York Air + 3 Nights from $777 + taxes & fees $154
INCLUDES Chelsea accom near Empire State Building. **UPGRADE** to Central Park 4-star for $22 per night.

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Day basks in Tory afterglow

One of the architects of the modern-day Tories has no regrets leaving office even though his party finally has absolute power.

Stockwell Day, the former Canadian Alliance leader and high-profile Conservative minister, was acting as a cheerleader for new Vancouver South MP Wai Young on election night.

When asked if he regretted his retirement just days before the election was called — and now that his party has a majority government — Day said he was more than happy just being a booster.

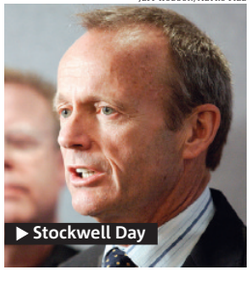
"My wife and I still feel we made the right decision," insisted Day, the longtime MLA for Okanagan-Coquihalla. "Even when I talked to the prime minister some months ago, I told him I was convinced we could get a majority and that's what has happened."

Day said the party will continue to push its economic action plan, starting with their proposed budget.

"We have a great time of stability ahead. I'm a very happy B.C. camper."

MATT KIELTYKA

JEFF HODSON/METRO FILE



▶ Stockwell Day

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ NDP leader Jack Layton and wife Olivia Chow celebrate their victories Monday night in Toronto.

Layton will have hands full: Experts

NDP leader will have to get inexperienced MPs to work together: Prof

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

The NDP's wave of orange crush that swept through Quebec has put leader Jack Layton in a sticky situation, local politicos say.

Fresh faces from the NDP unseated many veteran MPs in Quebec, including Bloc Quebecois leader Gilles Duceppe, who has resigned from his post.

"(Jack Layton will have to) find ways to bring a lot of people who have no political and parliamentary experience to work together in the national parliament," Ken Carty, a University of B.C. political science professor, said during an experts panel yesterday.

"Many people had no expectations of winning so this completely turned their lives upside down."

Allan Tupper, UBC's head of political science, said it will be interesting to see how the NDP caucus conducts itself, given the inexperience of some of its MPs.

The NDP's political neophytes include Pierre-Luc Dusseault, who at 19 is Canada's youngest-ever MP, and Ruth Ellen Brosseau, who won despite spending a week in Las Vegas during her campaign and acknowledging difficulties in speaking French.

Despite the NDP's surge in seats in the House of Commons, Carty said the government would pay less attention to them because of the Conservative majority.

"(For the NDP) the next year or two is going to be about trying to figure out who they are and how they're going to work," Carty added.

1 news

Canada's youngest-ever elected MP won't need that golf course summer job after all. Scan the code for the story.

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After securing his long-sought majority, Prime Minister Stephen Harper says he has no surprises planned. Video at metronews.ca

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TOWN HALL

Tax talk latest to lose to Canucks

One more challenger has gone down in defeat to the Vancouver Canucks as they continue their drive to the Stanley Cup — the province's HST town hall meetings.

The Liberal government revised its schedule for public discussions on the harmonized sales tax in order to avoid any conflict with yesterday's game.

The province is staging a series of telephone call-outs to inform voters about the HST and gather opinions about possible revisions to the unpopular tax, which will go to a referendum this summer. It's the third time the schedule has been changed to avoid going head-to-head with the NHL team for public attention.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Province brings back free parking at parks

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO

▶ Premier Christy Clark at Mount Seymour yesterday.

Paid parking to remain in effect at municipal and federal parks

KRISTEN THOMPSON
@METRONEWS.CA

Premier Christy Clark is giving us one less excuse to be couch potatoes — at least for those of us who are inactive for the sake of frugality — by axing parking fees at all provincial parks.

The move, which takes effect immediately, is tied to the 100th anniversary of British Columbia's park system.

"All of us had such great memories of being in parks with our families growing up," Clark said at Mount Seymour yesterday. "(Our wilderness) is a natural legacy we are so blessed to have. (This) is making parks more accessible."

Revenue

- There are almost 1,000 provincial parks in B.C., which attract more than 20 million visits each year.
- Paid parking brought in $1 million in revenue each year.

Environment Minister Terry Lake said the province is also launching a legacy program, which will allow communities to apply for $20,000 in improvements for local parks.

"We want communities to tell us how they'd like to commemorate the anniversary (of B.C. parks)," he said.

SlutWalk to strut down Granville

A protest parade called SlutWalk that drew more than 1,000 participants and made headlines in Toronto is now coming to Vancouver. The event, set to take place on Granville Street on May 15, aims to dispute the claim of a Toronto police officer that women make themselves vulnerable to assault by dressing provocatively.

Worldwide

- SlutWalk has gone international, with events being held in cities around the world.

KRISTEN THOMPSON

Manitoba teacher arrested in East Van

Police are crediting an alert citizen for helping them catch a Manitoba teacher wanted on a Canada-wide warrant. The 32-year-old man is accused of running off with his former student, a 16-year-old girl.

METRO

Island plane crash victim ID'd

Authorities have identified a pilot who died in a plane crash on Vancouver Island as an Alaskan businessman. Victor Andy Barbo, 56, was the only person on board the Cessna 195 that crashed northwest of Campbell River last week.

METRO

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Yonus Davis

Lions release Yonus Davis

The B.C. Lions have cut ties with their kick returner, who allegedly attempted to sell ecstasy tablets in the United States, the football club announced yesterday.

Yonus Davis was charged in San Jose, Calif., last month after accepting a package with approximately 40,000 ecstasy tablets from Drug Enforcement Agency agents posing as Federal Express employees.

He was charged with allegedly attempting to possess a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

He was then released after posting a $150,000 US bail.

"We believe we have an obligation to our current players and coaches, fans, partners, our league, and most importantly the community as a whole to ensure we conduct ourselves with integrity on and off the field," said Dennis Skulsky, team president and CEO.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS

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NDP SWEEP

Barely legal voter is now MP

They were a motley crew of underdogs with virtually no political experience.

One of them, a 19-year-old, was not only voting in his first election but also became the youngest person ever elected to Canada's Parliament.

▶ Pierre-Luc Dusseault

Pierre-Luc Dusseault, a student of applied politics at the Université de Sherbrooke, now becomes the youngest member of Parliament in Canadian history, according to the House of Commons website.

He surpasses Claude-Andre Lachance, a Trudeau Liberal who was elected at age 20 in 1974.

Two others won francophone ridings despite being accused of struggling in French. One spent a week vacationing in Las Vegas during the campaign.

Many admitted to having low expectations when the writ was dropped.

Yet they were among dozens of unlikely Quebec NDP candidates who won Monday. Many will bring impressive backgrounds into Parliament.

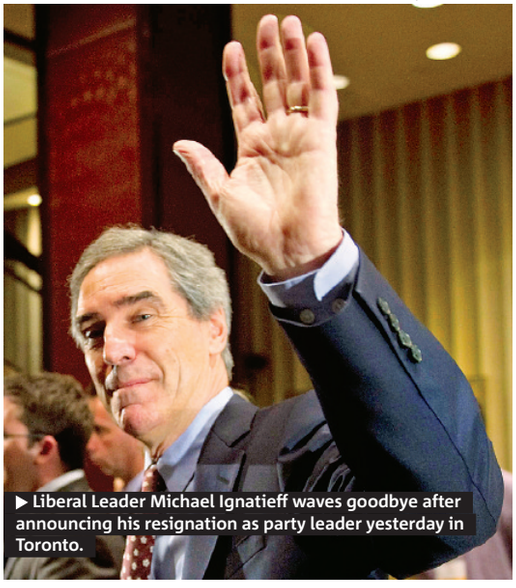
Among the newcomers are a former diplomat, a prominent Cree leader and an ex-Liberal MP once considered a shoo-in for a cabinet post.

The McGill Daily reported yesterday that four McGill University students also won for the NDP on Monday night.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ignatieff resigns, party left in ruins

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS


▶ Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff waves goodbye after announcing his resignation as party leader yesterday in Toronto.

Iggy blames Tory attack ads for demise ◐ NDP merger talks floating

Debate over the Liberal party's future began raging even before Michael Ignatieff announced yesterday that he will resign as leader.

Toronto MP Bob Rae, a likely contender to succeed Ignatieff, triggered much of the talk with a blunt assessment that the decimated party can't avoid discussing the possibility of merging with the ascendant NDP.

Ignatieff weighed in against the idea but acknowledged he won't be calling the shots after leading the Liberals to a bloodbath Monday, in which he even lost his seat.

"I will not be remaining as leader of this party," Ignatieff told red-eyed supporters during an emotional news conference in Toronto.

"It's hard to see how the discussion could be avoided."
BOB RAE, ON A POSSIBLE MERGER BETWEEN THE LIBERALS AND NDP

"I will work out with the party officials the best timing for a departure."

He indicated that he expects his successor will likely be chosen in the fall.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. could cut aid to Pakistan over bin Laden

Nearly $1.3 billion US a year at stake Lawmakers question whether al-Qaida leader had support system

The United States Congress may consider cutting the almost $1.3 billion US in annual aid to Pakistan if it turns out the Islamabad government knew where Osama bin Laden was hiding, the head of the Senate Intelligence Committee said yesterday.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a Democrat, said she wants more details from CIA director Leon Panetta and others about the Pakistani government's role.

Incredulous lawmakers are pressing Pakistan for answers to two simple questions: What did its army and intelligence agents know of bin Laden's whereabouts and when did they know it?

TIME/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Time magazine's cover for its bin Laden issue.

The al-Qaida terrorist leader behind the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks against the United States lived and died in a massive, fortified compound on the outskirts of Abbottabad, kilometres from the capital of Islamabad. It stood less than a kilometre from the Kakul Military Academy and close to various army regiments.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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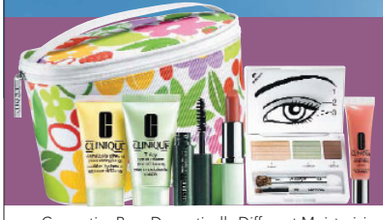

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Bahrain doctors to face trial for treating protesters

Several doctors and nurses who treated injured anti-government protesters during the months of unrest in Bahrain will be tried in a military court on charges of acting against the state, the justice minister said yesterday.

30 At least 30 people have died since protests in Bahrain began in February. Among the dead are four opposition supporters who died in custody.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Family's dog dies from hundreds of bee stings

A Southern California family returning home after church found their 6-year-old dog covered with bee stings and convulsing in the backyard.

The 40-pound Jindo named Inu died minutes later near the hive under an eave of the family's home in Torrance. Joe Park told the Torrance Daily Breeze that he and his family left for church on Sunday and the dog was happily playing in the backyard. When they returned hours later, she was lying in the yard, covered with hundreds of bee stingers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tornado storms through Auckland

At least one person killed and about 20 injured: hospital official

A tornado ripped across part of New Zealand's largest city yesterday, upturning cars and sending debris slicing through the air, witnesses and news reports said.

The swirling dark-grey column of air and cloud cut a 5-kilometre path across the Auckland suburb of Albany at mid-afternoon, tearing off roofing iron, flattening trees and tossing vehicles around, police and witnesses said.

The tornado first touched down in Albany and then passed through neighbouring Birkenhead. Most of the serious damage was in Albany, where a shopping mall, a large hardware store and a supermarket were hit. The roof of the Mega Center mall in Albany collapsed, one report said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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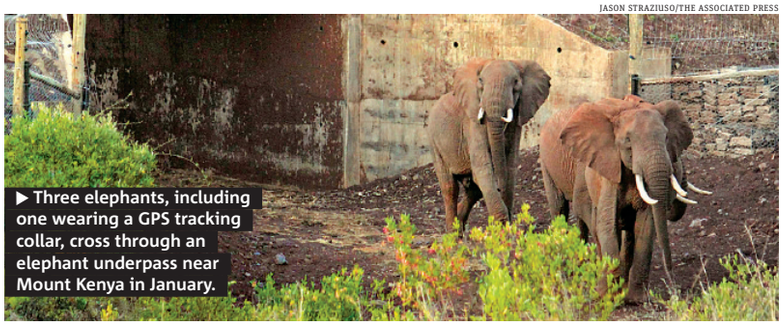
JASON STRAZIUSO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Three elephants, including one wearing a GPS tracking collar, cross through an elephant underpass near Mount Kenya in January.

Four elephants killed in Kenya

An elephant named Marani was shot to death in October A second shooting death came in February

Four of seven elephants outfitted with GPS tracking collars have been killed on the forested slopes of Mount Kenya in recent months only a short hike from the rustic cabin where Prince William proposed to Kate Middleton, conservation officials said yesterday.

Save The Elephants fitted seven animals near Mount Kenya with collars over the last year to track their movements. More than half have been killed, and the group's founder, Iain Douglas-Hamilton, said he's worried about what may be happening to the elephants who aren't collared.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft
– 242.14 (13,692.37)	– 0.19¢ (104.98¢ US)	– $2.47 US ($111.05 US)	$4.738 US (– 2.5¢ US)

Gold contracts $1,540.40 US (– $16.70 US)

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Short-lived relief over Tory majority

Investors look beyond election results and move on to more pressing matters Like Mideast turmoil, the U.S. economy, European debt ...

A business-friendly Conservative majority government gave financial markets some cause for comfort yesterday.

But the news failed to inspire gains on the Toronto stock market, which tumbled almost 250 points as investors looked past the victory and focused on headwinds facing equity markets.

Resource stocks led declines as a stronger U.S. dollar pressured oil and gold prices, which in turn pushed down the Canadian dollar.

GEOFF ROBINS/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Markets were a wee bit more stable yesterday.

Traders were relieved to see a majority win in Monday's election since it removes a degree of political uncertainty. But analysts said there were plenty of other things for investors to worry about.

"The Mideast is in turmoil, the U.S. is in turmoil and probably will continue to be as it figures out it has a long-term economic problem. And you have the European debt crisis," said John O'Connell, chief executive of Davis Rea Ltd.

The election cleared the way for the federal budget to be passed. Analysts expect the Conservatives will retable the budget introduced by Jim Flaherty this spring.

Among its provisions, small businesses would receive a credit to offset a rise in employment-insurance premiums, and companies would be allowed to write off the cost of new equipment in just two years, faster than normally allowed.

But corporate Canada could face higher bills. The government had planned to make changes in the way partnerships work that previously allowed for the deferral of corporate tax. Also on the agenda were changes to the rules governing the way dividends are paid.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ford Canada tops in sales for April

Ford Canada has reported its best April since 2000, making it the country's top-selling automaker last month. Canadian sales rose nine per cent to 25,548 vehicles from 23,441 in the same month last year.

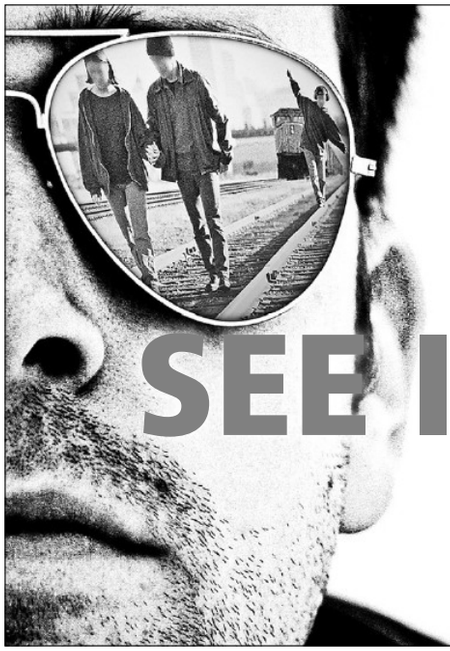
Ford saw car sales rise 33 per cent, while truck sales were up three per cent as higher gas prices drove some consumers to make more fuel-efficient choices.

The increase in sales of smaller, more fuel-efficient vehicles suggests that at least some buyers are factoring fuel costs into their vehicle choices as gasoline prices have risen to a Canadian average of nearly $1.33 a litre.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PAUL SANCYA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Many buyers are opting for smaller, more fuel-efficient cars such as the Focus, Ford reports.



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JUST SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

What scientists do all day is kind of a mystery.

We imagine they spend their days searching for a cure for cancer or watching the polar ice caps melt.

Not all of them, it turns out. A team of scientists at the University of Kentucky listens to tunes all day.

Hey, they're just like us!

Before you start imagining a bunch of guys with lumpy sweaters and sensible shoes gettin' jiggy with The Black Eyed Peas, remember, these are scientists and there's a serious point to all this.

And that is: After running three decades of hit songs through the computer, Dr. Nathan DeWall, a psychologist at the above-mentioned grooveyard of golden goodies, has discovered a significant trend toward narcissism and hostility in popular music.

"... Dr. Nathan DeWall, a psychologist at the above-mentioned grooveyard of golden goodies, has discovered a significant trend toward narcissism and hostility in popular music."

Not sure he needs a research lab for that ... all he really needs is an iPod and Eminem's Greatest Hits, but he's on to something.

Thirty years ago, everyone was having a good time (Kool & The Gang: Celebration); racial harmony (Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder: Ebony And Ivory); and togetherness (Sister Sledge: We Are Family).

These days, forget about peace and love, it's just about me. Or Justin Timberlake ("I'm bringing sexy back"), or Beyoncé ("It's blazin'. You watch me in amazement"), and Fergie ("It's personal, myself and I.")

As for the bred-in-the-hood surliness of Eminem and his posse, DeWall factored in a control for hip hop so those lyrics don't unfairly dominate his study.

He discovered that although pop music may be dominated by barely weaned puppies like Justin Bieber, it's not all love songs to Dora The Explorer. No one is feeling the love much these days, unless it's love of self. Exhibit A: Keri Hilson's "All eyes on me when I walk in, no question that this girl's a 10."

It's hard to believe things can change so much in a single generation, but guess what happens when the only subject taught in school is self-esteem? Then when you go to college, it's Self-Esteem 101, Advanced Self-Esteem 201, etc.

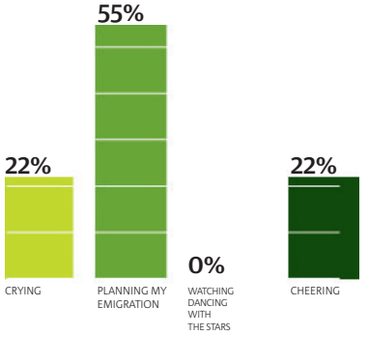
Ergo: Pop self-esteem sells. I don't need a scientist to tell me that. In fact, I don't need anyone to tell me what to think. I'm the greatest writer in the world, and I'll think whatever I feel like thinking. And if you don't like that, remember Cee Lo Green's message in his 2010 Billboard Top 100 hit, F--- You.

Er, I can't actually do that. This is a family newspaper.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

metro life panel **Register at metrolifepanel.ca and take the quick poll**

How did you spend election night?



Local tweets

- **@sbouchard:** Another fine lunch at the @theoutpostcafe Today: roast turkey #vancouver
- **@keiishaxo:** hopes @TheGreenMen & the other #canucks fans have tons of fun down in #nashville tonight — make #vancouver & #BC proud :)
- **@tyfrancis:** Just about to tuck in to a Kobe Beef @japadog oh yes! #vancouver #hotdogheaven
- **@adrawk:** It's almost too nice outside right now to tweet ... or work, yeah I meant work ... #vancouver
- **@brawluk:** Grabbing sushi before I get back to work. #yvr is beautiful today.
- **@outlawgenius:** Whoever complained to the NHL about Vancouver's Green Men — Force and Sully! — needs to be flogged. #canucks
- **@GrapeBuddies:** Ok #canucks time to go back and kick some nashville ... you know what I'm talkin about.
- **@sportsnetmurph:** I think if we're focusing on Rome vs Ballard, we're focusing on the wrong thing. It's about Twins and Kes not scoring, not #6 D-man.

Worth mentioning

NEW YORK. The best place in the world to be a mom is Norway, where maternal and child mortality rates are low, women's life expectancy and years in school are high, and the average maternity leave is about one year, a new study measuring the well-being of mothers and babies shows.

Australia and Iceland join Norway at the top of Save The Children's 12th annual Mothers Index, released yesterday. Canada ranks 20th, the United States places 31st and Afghanistan is last.

The international non-profit group's ranking analyzes the maternal and child indicators and other published information of 164 countries.

The survey considers Afghanistan the worst place to be a mother, with women having a life expectancy of 45 years — the world's lowest — and one of every 11 women dying in childbirth. One of every five children in the country doesn't live to age five.

By contrast, a typical Norwegian woman lives to be 83 years old, and just one in 175 will lose a child before his or her fifth birthday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cartoon by Michael de Adder

WEIRD NEWS

Fanning the flames of transit rage

Tempers can flare when your morning commute turns into a delay-induced sit-in.

But while many of us tear up our tickets, tweet our frustrations and glare at the teenager blaring his iPod who keeps kicking the seat, a group of Argentinean travellers went a few steps further when it decided to burn down its train.

The rail roasting was ignited Monday, during the morning rush hour commute that brings workers from the suburbs into Buenos Aires. But instead of being glided into the city, passengers were left stranded for 30 minutes after a train derailment.

That's when the rage set in and eight carriages at three commuter stations went up in flames, with violence quickly spreading from the Haedo stop to the nearby stations of Ramos Mejia and Cuidadela.

The angry mob of commuters also forcefully removed train drivers and an inspector from a train and stole ticket boxes from one station. Three passengers were arrested over the incidents, federal police deputy Chief Hugo Matzkin told the Buenos Aires Herald. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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HANDOUT

▶ Chris Hemsworth admits it took effort to bullk up for the role of Thor.

Thor looks good in 3-D

Director Kenneth Branagh says the most important part of the film was casting Thor

NED EHRBAR
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METRO WORLD NEWS IN HOLLYWOOD

Tasked with bringing Thor from the comic book pages to the big screen, director Kenneth Branagh couldn't help but feel a bit daunted.

The scale of the undertaking couldn't help but make you feel that way, he says. "It was very, very challenging, but that was a part of what was attractive," says Branagh.

Luckily, producer and Marvel honcho Kevin Feige was there to keep him on task: "On Day One, I asked Kevin, 'What should I do first?'" Branagh remembers. "And he said, 'The one thing you need to do right now — and until it's finished — is cast Thor. That's it. Just cast Thor.'"

Not an easy task as it turns out, though as the story for the film developed, Branagh found himself circling back to a young actor who had read early in the casting process: Chris Hemsworth.

"You're looking for really a lot tied up in one bundle," Branagh says of the character, the Norse god of thunder who is cast out of Asgard by his father, Odin.

"At one point we said, 'We should go back and meet that very handsome Australian lad who came in.' There was this required quality of an innate, charming confidence that did not spill over into arrogance that meant he would stand up in a scene with Anthony Hopkins."

Of course that's not all Hemsworth had going for him: "When he takes his shirt off there's obviously a wow factor that cannot be denied," Branagh says.

Bulking up enough to earn those accolades wasn't easy for 27-year-old Hemsworth — though it wasn't the weight-lifting that gave him the most trouble.

"The most uncomfortable thing was the eating," Hemsworth says. "I just don't naturally sit at that weight, so I'd have to force-feed myself with ... 20 chicken breasts and rice and steak. All very boring, sort of plain things. That was the most exhausting part of the whole film."

What was daunting for Hemsworth was working with the veteran Hopkins. The younger actor wasn't prepared for Hopkins' brand of humour.

"I remember being on set our first day with Tony and going through the rehearsal, and Tony saying, 'Is that how you're going to do it?' and then going, 'He's kidding, right?'" Hemsworth remembers. "That's a big thing I learned from Tony — have a good time doing it. What should've been the most intimidating experience walking in was the most enjoyable."

As it turns out, Thor wasn't Hemsworth's favourite choice when it comes to superheroes — not that he isn't thrilled to play him.

"I would run around the house pretending to be (Superman). At some stage when I was a kid I also had a Robin costume ... A nice pair of green underwear and a yellow shirt and red cape."

2 scene

Scene in brief

Zach Galifianakis leads the 15th annual Webby Awards with four awards for his Between Two Ferns With Zach Galifianakis Web series.

Other winners include Lisa Kudrow, Arcade Fire and Justin Bieber.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Book of Mormon gets a leading 14 Tony Award nominations; The Scottsboro Boys gets 12.

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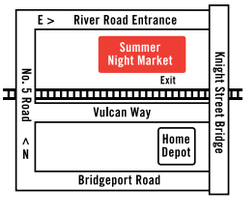


Royal visit to Hollywood?

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Looks like William and Kate will drop by to see the Beckham clan

Prince William and his new wife may be heading to Hollywood, according to royal family expert Andrew Morton.

"Royal aides have penciled in a two day visit to Hollywood at the end of their tour of Canada which takes place in late June and early July," Morton reports.

The visit would mark the first overseas visit as a married couple for the new Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

Morton says it's likely that royal wedding guests David and Victoria Beckham would be involved in the L.A. visit. METRO

Looks like Pussycat Doll has X Factor

While there's still no word from Simon Cowell on the list of judges for the U.S. edition of the X Factor, Pussycat Dolls singer Nicole Scherzinger is reportedly set to be the host of the new show, according to People magazine.

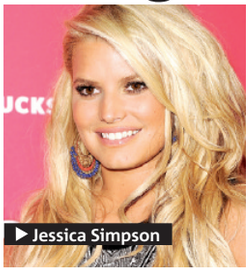
Scherzinger was a guest judge on the British version last year. While Cowell hasn't made any official announcements yet, he's previously expressed his affinity for Scherzinger: "I absolutely adore her. She's gorgeous and ruthlessly ambitious," he said. METRO

Nicole Scherzinger

Wedding will have to weight

Jessica Simpson is excited about marrying fiancé Eric Johnson, but she reportedly won't do it until she's dropped a few more pounds, according to Hollyscoop. "Jess and Eric are happier than ever and enjoying a little too much of the good life," a source says. "They were hoping for an early summer wedding, but pushed it back so they both have a chance to shed extra pounds."

The source explains that Simpson has already lost 20 pounds thanks to a strict diet and workout regimen, but she's still not comfortable being in a wedding dress and wants to drop another 20 pounds. METRO



Jessica Simpson

Driving raps catch up with rapper

After being pulled over for a routine traffic violation, rapper Flavor Flav found himself behind bars in Las Vegas over the weekend, according to TMZ. Police discovered the former Public Enemy front-man had warrants out for previous infractions, including two cases of driving without a license. METRO

Rob Lowe

Sheen rejects offer from Rob Lowe

Rob Lowe, who himself has been sober for 21 years, says he's offered help to longtime friend Charlie Sheen, but the offer wasn't exactly well-received.

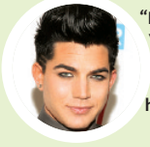
"I love Charlie deeply, always have. I've always wanted him to be healthy, happy and together. But he's doing it his way for better or worse," Lowe tells Popeater.

"I say, 'Charlie come my way.' He doesn't want to. To put it mildly, he's not interested." METRO

Celebrity tweets

"I just made a kickass chocolate mousse cake, in preparation for my local baking competition."

@lilyroseallen



@adamlambert

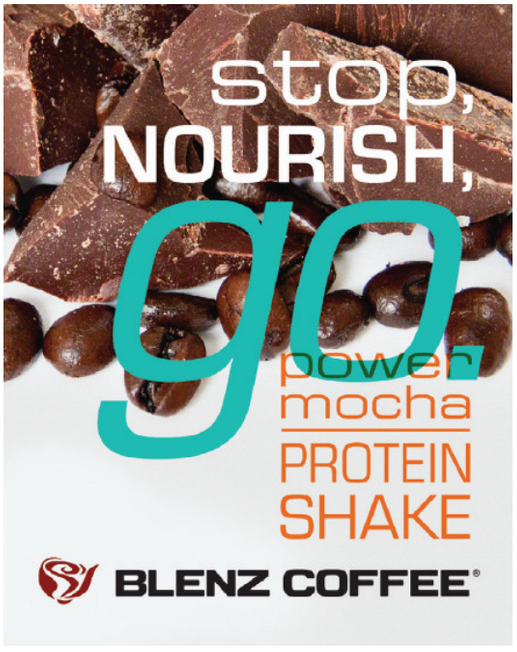
"I shaved. Y'all can relax now. Ha-ha"

@jimmykimmel

"I really hope bin laden didn't get reincarnated as one of Mariah Carey's babies."

@PaulaAbdul

"social media is a gift in times of disaster or crisis. amazing people sharing their experiences FIRST HAND. LOVE hearing from everyone!"



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JANINE FALCON/METRO

▶ Relax in a hammock at the Excellence Playa Mujeres, in the Mayan Riviera in Mexico.

A girls getaway to Mexico

Not all resorts are equal — some offer that something extra special to give you a relaxing vacation ◐ Everything you need for a girls holiday

JANINE FALCON
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

746589

Some people can relax quickly by hopping a flight to a random all-inclusive beach vacation. Others, I found out on a recent girls' getaway trip to Cancun and the Riviera Maya, need a few extras to kickstart the decompression.

Making Yourself a Priority

If, like me, you tense up at the thought of check-in crowds and crammed-together charter seating, consider an upgrade that streamlines the travel process. Transat Holiday's Options Plus ensured our group priority boarding, roomy up-front seats in which work-stiff shoulders could relax immediately, priority unloading of our luggage when we landed, and pronto transportation to our hotel via private vehicle.

JANINE FALCON/METRO

▶ A view of the Excellence Playa Mujeres.

The Luxe Life

Nothing sets a relaxation mood faster than complimentary chilled champagne and fresh fruit in an airy room with overstuffed cushions and a plushly appointed bed.

Welcome to the Excellence Playa Mujeres in Cancun, Mexico. This is a five-star hotel akin to New York five-star, only on a much better beach.

Services at Aiile, the adult-only hotel's impressive spa, banish the remnants of work-related fatigue and nine restaurants offer fare worthy of the term gourmet.

Keep it coming

At the Royal Hideaway in Riviera Maya, meandering paths branch off to a number of cheerful two-storey Colonial-style villas with open centre courtyards.

Skilled spa therapists again reduce us to mellow Jell-O. Outside, the atmosphere has a bit more of a party vibe than the Excellence Playa Mujeres. A buff instructor encourages water-aerobics participation to catchy dance tunes; we join in and enjoy poolside snacks and drinks. This is the life.

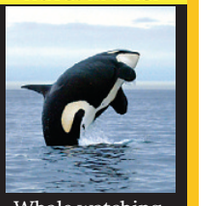
For the boys

Stuff for guys to do when your with your girlfriend.

- **Workouts** At the resorts in Transat Holiday's Luxury Collection, there's plenty of stuff for dudes to do while you enjoy quality girly time. Well-equipped hotel gyms offer workout opportunities.
- **Sports.** If the beach is calling, volleyball nets stand at the ready for a rousing game, and rows of jet-skis gleam in the sunlight, as do colourful lineups of kayaks, and sailboats. Parasailing, windsurfing, deep-sea diving or snorkeling are also options. At the Excellence Playa Mujeres, a gorgeous 18-hole Greg Norman signature golf course awaits.

3 life

Travel in brief



Whale watching companies are predicting a successful season this year in the Strait of Georgia after numerous orca sightings in recent weeks. The whale watching season kicked off April 1 and runs until October.
On the web: vancouverwhalewatch.com and seabreezeadventures.ca
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Travelling to run: Marathoners' vacation plans often tied to location of next race

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Bay of Fundy, a unique wonder

With the highest tides in the world, there are plenty of exciting activities and sights for tourists

A lot has been written about Atlantic Canada's Bay of Fundy since it was named one of the top 28 finalists in the global New7Wonders of Nature campaign, but lesser known is the multitude of opportunities the bay offers to tourists.

There's sightseeing, hiking, fossil hunting, boating, whale watching, tidal bore rafting, fishing, camping and, of course, enjoying the variety of delicious seafood.

The 270-kilometre-long Bay of Fundy is bordered by the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and features the world's highest tides.

More than 100 billion tonnes of seawater flow in and out of the bay during each tide cycle, resulting in dramatic changes along the shoreline.

In places like Hopewell Cape, N.B., you can go kayaking, and just six hours later be walking on the ocean floor.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ There are 12 species of whales in the Bay of Fundy.

"If the tides are that high, they're also that low, so they go out several kilometres in several locations around the bay," said Terri McCulloch, executive director of Bay of Fundy Tourism.

"There is an opportunity for people of all ages to explore the ocean floor at low tide."

McCulloch recommends Alma Beach and numerous places along the Fundy Trail in New Brunswick, as well as the Parrsboro area in Nova Scotia as places to safely walk on the ocean floor when the tide is out.

The Fundy Trail — which runs between St. Martin's, N.B., and Fundy National Park — offers visitors lots of opportunities to experience the bay from scenic vistas, as well as excellent driving, biking and hiking routes.

In St. Martin's you can see the caves that have been carved into the cliffs by the tides. Here there are a number of quaint bed-and-breakfasts, and a number of places that boast the best seafood chowder — a claim you'll hear in many places around the bay.

Speaking of food, there's never a lack of fresh lobster, clams or mussels to feast on anywhere on the New Brunswick or Nova Scotia sides of the bay. Smoked salmon is another delicacy the bay is known for.

If viewing marine life is more your fancy, there are many whale watching companies that offer tours in the outer areas of the bay — particularly between Grand Manan Island and St. Andrews, N.B.

"We have 12 species of whales in the bay," McCulloch said. "The right whales are probably best known because they are an endangered species and we are the summer feeding habitat for those whales."

Porpoises and seals are also plentiful in the outer bay, and passengers taking the ferry ride to Grand Manan are almost guaranteed to see a variety of sea life.

"Seeing the whales is something that has meant a lot to us as a family," said New Brunswick Premier David Alward. "It is very much a part of who we are."

These suggestions represent just a fraction of the many activities available for tourists who decide to explore the 1,200 kilometres of coastline around the Bay of Fundy.

The final seven finalists in the New7Wonders of Nature campaign will be announced Nov. 11.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The fastest way to creative creations

The panini press does more than make sandwiches It creates delicious (and quick) appetizers and desserts

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This Countertop Napoleon is made in four simple steps.

The panini press is most often used to make pressed sandwiches.

Now these user-friendly appliances are being employed to create creative appetizers and desserts that look as impressive as they taste.

You can buy an electric panini press for as little as $40, or as much $300; the models around $100 often offer the most versatility at the best price point.

Most of the clam-shaped devices have ridges (though some are flat and griddle-like) and heat up on both the top and bottom grill plates, so they cook things really fast.

Countertop Napoleons

Who knew a panini press and a package of frozen puff pastry could be combined to create such a light and elegant dessert?

Best yet, the whole thing comes together in little time and with even less mess. You simply thaw the puff pastry (available in the grocer's freezer section), cut it into squares, then throw it on the panini press. Cooking the pastry on a panini press makes for perfectly golden, crisp and gently puffed flaky layers.

Once your pastry layers are cooked, you layer them with whipped cream (you can use purchased if you want to make this dish even faster and easier) and fresh berries.

The result is a dessert to rival restaurant offerings.

Preparation:

1. Heat a panini press or countertop grill.
2. Cut each sheet of puff pastry into nine 3-by-3-inch (7.5-by-7.5-cm) squares. Working in batches, to fit your press at once, cook pastry squares with the cover set gently down on them 3 to 4 minutes or until lightly browned and cooked through. Transfer squares to plate to cool; set aside.
3. In bowl, using electric mixer, whip cream until stiff peaks form. Fold in sour cream, orange marmalade and honey.
4. Spread layer of whipped cream over 6 of the pastry squares. Top each with berries, then another square of pastry. Repeat with another layer of whipped cream, fruit and a third pastry square. Finish Napoleon with a final layer of cream, then fruit. Dust with icing sugar.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients:

- 1 pkg (450 g) frozen butter puff pastry sheets, thawed
- 1 cup (250 mL) 35% whipping cream
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) sour cream
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) orange marmalade
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) honey
- 12 oz (340 g) fresh raspberries
- Icing sugar

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Small start-ups offer opportunity

STUDENT VOICE

AMIRA DHALLA
TALENTEGG.CA

Having always had a flair for marketing, I went into university thinking I knew exactly what I wanted to do when I graduated: work for a consumer packaged goods (CPG) company. While completing my degree in business at Wilfrid Laurier University, I was able to partake in the co-op program that allowed me to gain real world experience.

I was fortunate to get placements at Disney Consumer Products and Unilever, both great CPG companies. Though I loved the brands and products that I worked on, I never felt in control of my projects and I found that myself and my ideas often got lost.

It was my third co-op term at QuickPlay Media that really opened my eyes to the start-up environment. I excelled in the small environment and felt like I was contributing to the company's bottom line.

I grew up believing that the more popular the brand and the company, the better the opportunity to learn and succeed. However, through my co-op experiences, I learned that there are equal, if not greater, learning opportunities to be had in smaller, start-up companies.

I did some research on people who I had admired and realized that they were all entrepreneurs who had formed or been a part of a

SUBMITTED

▶ Amira Dhalla

start-up. It was these people who had learned the most by going against the grain and taking risks. Upon graduating, I simultaneously took two different job positions at two very different start-ups.

Where Amira is now

I am currently working as a Community Manager at My City Lives (mycitylives.com), a digital platform for individuals to share stories and experiences about their city through videos.

I am very passionate about Toronto and, in my job, I am able to help showcase why my city and the people are great. I love my job and I'm thankful to all my previous experiences that have led me to where I am today.

Key take-aways from Amira's school-to-work transition

• Take advantage of internship and co-op programs offered by your school. Your school's existing relationships with some of the world's biggest and best companies will help you get invaluable work experience before you even graduate.

• Pay attention to how you feel about the style of work you're expected to do and ask yourself if it's your ideal work environment. If it's not, try out other opportunities until you find something you like.

• Don't discount small businesses and start-ups: They often allow even young, inexperienced employees to contribute their ideas and can give you much more responsibility and control over your work than larger companies.

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metro life panel

Re-thinking the way we create

For the third year in a row, Vancouver's Langara College and advertising agency Rethink are offering an $18,000 scholarship to aspiring art directors and designers. The lucky winner will receive full tuition to Langara College's two-year Communication and Ideation program as well as an internship at Rethink.

The winner will then be selected by Rethink's creative directors, along with members of Langara's faculty. The deadline is July 1. Contest information, and this year's video, are online at rethinkcanada.com/scholarship. METRO

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HOW TO FIGHT BACK

WORKPLACE LAW

DANIEL LUBLIN
DAN@CANADAEMPLOYMENTLAWYER.COM
TWITTER: @DANLUBLIN

ISTOCK PHOTOS

▶ There are some do's and dont's to fighting back.

Employees often author their own workplace misfortunes. Few take advantage of this country's lenient labour laws and fewer challenge their employer's decisions, however unjust. Most will just complain. But if you have an inclination to fight back, here are some key do's and do not's:

Do not expect that promotional decisions will be made fairly. There is no legal requirement to promote the longest serving or most meritorious employee.

Do protest your employer's decisions that you disagree with, such as a poor performance appraisal, and do it in writing. Failing to respond simply conveys to your employer that you agreed with its decision or at least that you did not care enough to complain.

Do not sign contracts without negotiating first. Employers deliberately prepare employer friendly agreements, since most people will just agree to what they are given, happy to get anything at all.

Do be wary of skeletons in your closet. Just about every employee has one. If yours is so bad you can't risk it being exposed, then do not challenge your employer's decision to dismiss you, however unjust. Some workplace skeletons, although not harmful to your case, will ultimately be harmful to your career.

Do not leave agreements to handshakes or memory. Employers conveniently "forget" about oral agreements once employees leave and courts often refuse to intervene without written evidence of a deal.

Do not assume your position is safe. No job is.

Do pick your battles prudently: In one recent case, the employee lost because he refused to complete an important assignment, mistakenly believing it was not part of his job.

Do not expect a court or your employer's sympathy when you challenge whether you should perform your work.

DANIEL LUBLIN IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN LLP. HIS FULL ARTICLE CAN BE READ ONLINE AT METRONEWS.CA

Leaders of new business

The Business Development Bank of Canada honoured 11 of the country's most successful young entrepreneurs at the 23rd edition of its Young Entrepreneur Awards (YEA) held in Saskatoon yesterday.

The YEA winners were chosen based on the originality of their business concept, as well as their company's success, growth potential and social involvement. The provincial and territorial selection committees also considered the entrepreneur's, the number of years he or she has been in business and any special challenges that were overcome. Among the winners were:

HANDOUT

▶ Arnold Leung from Appnovation.

Arnold Leung, 25
Appnovation Technologies Vancouver
After graduating from the University of British Columbia, where he started a web development business with two friends, Arnold struck out on his own in 2007. With 30 employees, Appnovation specializes in open source websites and iPhone applications and has annual revenues of more than $1 million.

Jeremy Gutsche, 32
Trend Hunter Inc.
Jeremy is the brains behind TrendHunter.com, a website that tracks hot trends in pop culture, technology and fashion.

Trend Hunter's platform brings together data from 40,000 contributors around the world, then hyperlinks the research and compiles it into value-added trend reports.

The website attracts 35 million views a month.

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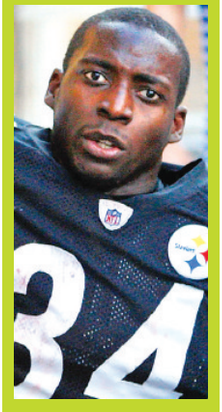


"What kind of person celebrates death? It's amazing how people can HATE a man they have never even heard speak. We've only heard one side ..."

A TWEET FROM PITTSBURGH STEELERS RUNNING BACK RASHARD MENDENHALL ABOUT THE REACTION TO OSAMA BIN LADEN'S DEATH. MENDENHALL WENT ON TO QUESTION THE EVENTS OF SEPT. 11, 2001, WRITING: "I JUST HAVE A HARD TIME BELIEVING A PLANE COULD TAKE A SKYSCRAPER DOWN DEMOLITION."

Scan code for more sports

MARK HUMPHREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Ryan Kesler scores the game-winning goal on Predators goalie Pekka Rinne in overtime last night as Henrik Sedin looks on.

Canucks retake control of series

Kesler scores two of Vancouver's three goals ◐ Draws penalty that led to winner in OT

Ryan Kesler scored his second power-play goal at 10:45 of overtime, and the Vancouver Canucks beat the Nashville Predators 3-2 and grabbed a 2-1 lead in the Western Conference semifinal series on Tuesday night.

Fans in the sellout crowd reacted angrily, throwing towels and other debris onto the ice.

Kesler scored his first two goals of the post-season and had an assist, and Chris Higgins also had a goal for Vancouver. Christian Ehrhoff had two assists as the Canucks, the Presidents' Trophy winners in the regular season, bounced back from a 2-1, double-overtime loss in Game 2 and regained home-ice advantage.

CANUCKS	PREDATORS
3	2

Game 4 is Thursday night in Nashville.

Joel Ward and David Legwand both scored for the Predators, who matched the Canucks' energy but not their shots. Vancouver outshot Nashville 40-26 through regulation.

Kesler also drew the penalty 10:05 into the extra period that gave the Canucks the decisive power play. He stayed bent over, trapping Nashville captain Shea Weber's stick in his belly while the defenceman pounded on him trying to get his stick back. Weber was sent off for hooking on the questionable call.

Worth noting

- With Kesler's goals, the Canucks improved to 2 of 10 in this series and 3 of 26 overall against Nashville with the man advantage this season.
- Nashville went 0 of 3 and is 0 of 26 on the power play against Vancouver.

Just 40 seconds later, Kesler tipped in a shot from Mikael Samuelsson for the winning goal that put the Canucks back in front in the series.

Ward tied it 2-2 with 6:42 left in regulation, skating behind the net and sweeping the puck into the open net past goalie Roberto Luongo's outstretched left leg. That woke up the sellout crowd.

Canucks coach Alain Vigneault switched up his lines, moving Alex Burrows back with Henrik and Daniel Sedin. The move worked early as Burrows had a shot from in front that was stopped by Pekka Rinne. The Canucks fired many shots at Rinne early, recording as many in the first period (15) as they did all of regulation in Game 2.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lightning strikes again

Two late goals have Capitals on the verge of being knocked out
Game 4 is tonight in Tampa

Steven Stamkos and Ryan Malone scored 24 seconds apart in the third period and the streaking Tampa Bay Lightning beat Washington 4-3 to push the top-seeded Capitals to the brink of elimination in the Eastern Conference semifinals last night.

After winning twice in Washington, the Lightning returned home and rallied to take a commanding 3-0 series lead. Tampa Bay can advance to the conference finals with a victory at home tonight in Game 4.

Vincent Lecavalier and Sean Bergenheim also scored for the fifth-seeded Lightning, whose sixth straight post-season win gave them a commanding lead in the best-of-seven series. Tampa Bay hasn't lost since falling into a 3-1 hole against Pittsburgh in the first round.

LIGHTNING	CAPITALS
4	3

Alex Ovechkin had a power-play goal and an assist for Washington, which led 3-2 heading into third period after Mike Knuble, John Carlson and Ovechkin scored in the second.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHN RAOUX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Eric Brewer makes a move to get past Washington's Alex Ovechkin.

Coyotes

The NHL has exercised its option to take $25 million US from the City of Glendale to cover losses by the Phoenix Coyotes this season.

- The city had placed the money in escrow a year ago at the NHL's insistence to cover such losses if the sale of the team had not gone through by the end of this season.
- The NHL bought the team out of bankruptcy in September 2009 with the intention of finding a buyer to keep the team in Arizona.
- A proposed sale has been stalled by the threat of a lawsuit by the Goldwater Institute.

Bulls' Rose is NBA's youngest ever MVP

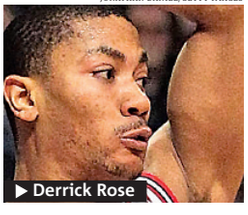
The NBA has made it official: Chicago Bulls guard Derrick Rose is the MVP.

Rose officially became the NBA's youngest MVP yesterday. He joins Michael Jordan as the only Bulls players to win the award after a spectacular season in which he led Chicago to the league's best record.

Rose, 22, got 113 first-place votes from a panel of media voters. Orlando's Dwight Howard finished second and Miami's LeBron James was third

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Derrick Rose

Sports in brief

Heat too much for Celtics

NBA. LeBron James scored 24 of his 35 points in the second half, Dwyane Wade added 28 and the Miami Heat used a late 14-0 run to pull away and beat the Boston Celtics 102-91 in Game 2 of their Eastern Conference semifinal series last night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Court grants NFL request

NFL. A federal appeals court in the U.S. agreed yesterday to fast track the NFL's request to put its labour lockout in place until a new deal is finally worked out.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Whitecaps have edge against Impact

The Vancouver Whitecaps used to be considered underdogs in the Nutrilite Canadian championship.

But after joining Major League Soccer this season, and taking the first leg of their two-game, total goals series with the Montreal Impact 1-0 last week, the Whitecaps want to show they belong.

After years of playing in lower leagues with Montreal, Vancouver joined Toronto FC this season in North America's top league.

The Whitecaps have high-priced talent with international experience and they expect that to carry them past the Impact in today's second leg.

"We want to go out there and show that we're the MLS side," said Vancouver midfielder Terry Dunfield, who scored the lone goal in the first game. "We've got that pedigree now."

The Impact, who are playing in the North American Soccer League for one season before joining the MLS in 2012, also have a point to prove.

Montreal coach Marc Dos Santos likened today's matchup to a Fiat racing a Ferrari.

"Some of the salaries in Vancouver are much higher than the salaries of our players," he said. "You could buy, maybe, different quality, but it doesn't mean that the Ferrari's going to win the race, because you could have a flat tire. That's what we believe."

Former Whitecaps striker David Testo, who now plays for the Impact, doesn't think the sides are too far apart on the pitch.

"If you watch both teams play, there's not a big difference. Even with the big salary difference and the budget, you wouldn't be able to tell that on the field," he said.

The winner of this series will advance to meet either Toronto FC or FC Edmonton for the Canadian title later this month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

5 drive

Bumper

On the TL's behind, there's a new bumper with built-in reflectors along with fresh taillights, trunk-lid trim and exhaust outlets.

Besides the front, the rest of the TL's physical presence remains pretty much static, save for a new selection of standard and optional multi-spoke wheels.

Interior

Further refinements can be found inside the passenger area with upgraded trim, available ventilated front seats and an optional voice-recognition sound system that can store up to 3,500 songs on a 15-gigabyte hard drive.

As usual, the TL, even in base form, arrives as a well-turned-out vehicle, but there are a number of significant extra-cost features on the menu. The Technology Package includes a navigation system with traffic and weather updates, 440-watt ELS-brand sound system, premium leather-covered seats and keyless push-button start.

Engine

Continuing on is the base 280-horsepower 3.5-litre V6 (which sports new friction-reducing pistons for 2012) and the optional 305-horsepower 3.7-litre V6.

However, Acura has swapped out the previous standard five-speed automatic transmission for a six-speed. The name of the game here is fuel economy and Acura reports that the 3.5 is now rated at 10.4 l/100 km in the city and 6.8 on the highway.

▶ After a daring redesign for the 2009 model year, Acura clawed back the more controversial styling elements, such as the some-would-say-bizarre rear finish panel on the trunk. If you don't know what we're talking about, then the design change worked.

New nose is good news

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

Staying a step or two ahead of the competition can be a risky move, especially if you manufacture cars for a living.

Sign off on a decidedly different design and the distance between success and failure can be just a nip, tuck, or crease away.

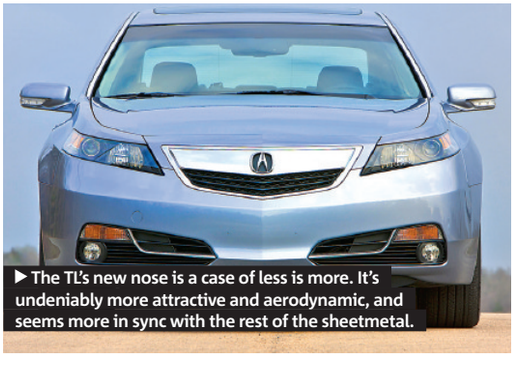
Take the TL, for example. Acura's sporty sedan has always ranked high with buyers for its combination of spaciousness, styling and performance, all at an attractive price point.

However, the car's 2009-model-year makeover for the upscale-Honda-division's top-selling sedan garnered less-than-favourable reviews, particularly for the oddly-shaped, shield-like grille and a bumper that resembled a ship's prow.

So, for the 2012 model year, the stylists have taken a scalpel to that bit of frontal daring-do and also completed numerous other modifications throughout the vehicle.

On the road, the TL, which starts at about $41,400 including destination charges, rides and drives pretty much like the previous edition and exhibits the same excellent road manners and interior refinement that has made it such a popular choice over the years.

Now with a host of subtle, but significant, improvements in design and content, the TL will no doubt have broader appeal.



▶ The TL's new nose is a case of less is more. It's undeniably more attractive and aerodynamic, and seems more in sync with the rest of the sheetmetal.

▶ Swoopy, blended features and protruding instrument pods highlight the TL's comfortable interior, but the silver foil-like trim would be much better if it were stitched leather.

By comparison

Cadillac CTS sedan
Base price: $38,600
Good-looking car has put Caddy back on the map. 556-hp CTS-V impresses.

Lincoln MKZ
Base price: $40,000
Ford Fusion-based model offers AWD plus very thrifty hybrid version.

Lexus ES 350
Base price: $43,000
Lots of standard content fitted on ES, along with an arms-length option list.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

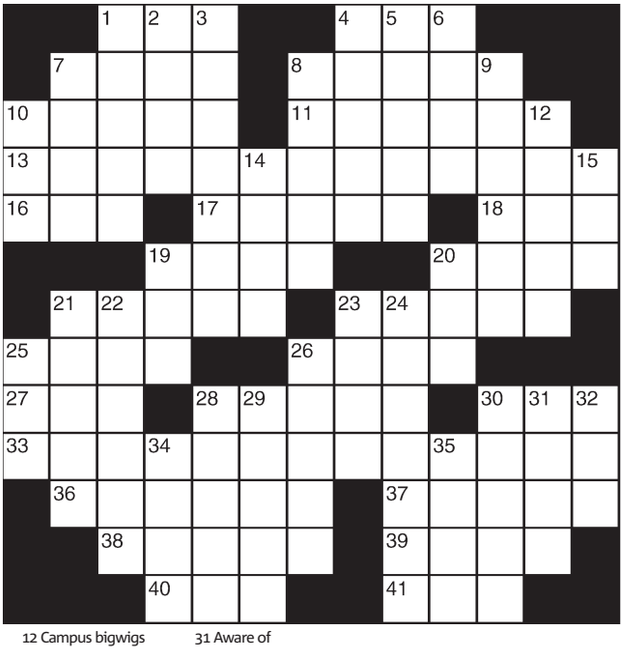
Scan code for more car reviews and news

Acura TL

What you should know about the 2012 Acura TL:

- **Types:** Four-door front- /all-wheel-drive entry-luxury sedan.
- **Engine (hp):** 3.5-litre DOHC V6 (280); 3.7-litre DOHC V6 (305).
- **Transmission:** Six-speed automatic; six-speed manual (opt. on 3.7).
- **Market position:** Among the crop of luxury-oriented sedans, the TL's distinguished reputation for providing a wealth of standard equipment at a relatively down-to-earth price helps it attract a loyal and enthusiastic following.
- **Stats:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 10.4/6.8 (3.5).

Crossword



Across

1 Commercials
4 "Doo" follower
7 First victim
8 Acrylic fiber
10 Scent
11 Wallowed (in)
13 Sofa, recliner, ottoman, etc.
16 New Guinea port
17 Antimacassar
18 Spotted, a la Tweety
19 Intend
20 Arm bone
21 Cricket, for one
23 Performs high-tech surgery
25 Sonic —
26 Scoff
27 Elev.
28 Ladd and Alda
30 Shemp's brother
33 Guesswork
36 Jog sans togs
37 Gambling game
38 Surpass
39 Kill a bill
40 French possessive
41 English cathedral city

12 Campus bigwigs
14 Grownup kid
15 Old airline initials
19 Mid-May honoree
20 Work with
21 Cobbler's supply
22 Spud
23 Chain part
24 Exculpate
25 Evil
26 "King of Pop," in headlines
28 Mountain ridge
29 Begins
30 Thurber's dreamer Walter
31 Aware of
32 Id counterpart
34 Tom-tom, e.g.
35 Christmas refrain

Down

1 Overhead
2 Actress Moore
3 Smear tactics
4 Slobber
5 Metallic blend
6 Actress Celeste
7 Met melody
8 Utah politico Hatch
9 Get snug and cozy
10 The whole enchilada

▶ Yesterday's answer

A	C	N	E	■	C	I	D	■	M	U	F	F
D	R	A	G	■	D	N	A	■	O	S	L	O
D	O	N	G	■	R	O	B	I	N	S	O	N
S	W	A	N	S	O	N	■	B	A	R	E	D
■	■	■	O	H	M	■	V	I	M	■	■	■
G	O	R	G	E	■	M	A	D	I	S	O	N
A	B	A	■	■	J	E	T	■	■	A	R	E
S	I	M	P	S	O	N	■	L	U	C	R	E
■	■	■	O	P	T	■	P	A	P	■	■	■
S	T	A	I	R	■	J	A	C	K	S	O	N
T	E	N	N	Y	S	O	N	■	E	C	R	U
A	L	O	T	■	E	K	E	■	E	A	S	T
Y	E	N	S	■	E	E	L	■	P	R	O	S

Sudoku

4		5				9		1
	8	9	4		1	2	3	
7								4
			1		6			
	6			2			4	
			8		3			
9								5
	4	7	5		8	1	9	
8		1				3		2

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

2	1	5	9	8	6	3	4	7
3	7	8	4	5	2	9	6	1
6	9	4	1	7	3	8	2	5
7	6	9	5	1	8	4	3	2
8	2	1	3	4	9	5	7	6
4	5	3	6	2	7	1	9	8
5	3	2	8	6	4	7	1	9
1	4	6	7	9	5	2	8	3
9	8	7	2	3	1	6	5	4

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Q,
Sorry hon. I love my girl. She deserves my heart and has been there for 3 yrs now, we are going to grow old together. Goodbye & good luck. **FROM A**

My Crush,
I would like to tell you what you know already, hold your hand and know that u love me as much as i do. But its complicated when the fear of having ur heart broken is stronger than you. Therefore, reassure me and give me a chance and i promise you that your heart will be safe with me
From **VANESSA**

Nadia, Your smile is my sunrise, your kiss is my sunset. Thank you for being the most wonderful woman,friend,mother,wife and companion.Thank you for standing by me. I love you. Your husband **JORGE**

Today 13°/9° Variable
Thursday 12°/9° Variable
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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You need to make changes in the way you use your resources.
♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 The planets in their courses will make it easy for you to excel over the next few days.
♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 No matter how bad things might seem at the moment, they will get better very soon.
♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Even if things go wrong today, it won't stop you from believing that your life is blessed. It is.
♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Don't do things just to impress others. Do things that mean something to you personally.
♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Get away from your usual environment for a while. The world is yours to explore.
♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 If you don't do something about overspending, the consequences could be dire.
♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You won't get far under your own steam today, so ask for help.
♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Make sure you're on top of what you have to do and that you do an excellent job of it.
♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Focus on the one aim that means more than anything.
♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 The only way out of your predicament is to identify your problem and do something.
♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. Shout if you have to. Don't let others drown out your voice.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

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